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Message Text

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42
ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 STR-01 EA-13 EUR-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 RSR-01 L-02

OIC-01 /070 W
---------- 075992
R 301225 Z MAY 73
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9574

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2576

LIMDIS

PASS STR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, CH
SUBJ: PRC ATTENDANCE AT GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

1. CONSTANT SHIH (SHIH CHUNG- TSE), LONG- TIME GATT EMPLOYEE WHO RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO UNCTAD TO DEVELOP UNCTAD PROGRAM FOR ASSISTING LDCS IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, ASKED MISSION ECMIN MILLER YESTERDAY HIS VIEW RE US REACTION TO POSSIBILITY OF PRC REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (AND POSSIBLY JULY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE) AS NON- MEMBER PARTICIPANT OR OBSERVER. SHIH SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY PRC REP FOR HIS (SHIH' S) ESTIMATE OF GATT REACTION.

2. SHIH RECENTLY VISITED PEKING AND SHANGHAI, WHERE HIS FATHER IS STILL LIVING, AND APPEARS TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH LOCAL REPS.

3. MILLER NOTED THAT GATT PARTIES TO FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS HAD INVITED NON- MEMBER LDCS TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATORY WORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS BUT INVITATION HAD BEEN LIMITED TO LDCS. PRC HAD NEVER IDENTIFIED ITSELF AS LDC IN GATT/ UNCTAD CONTEXT. HENCE EXISTING INVITATION DOES NOT APPLY. HOWEVER,
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HE WOULD NOT WISH TO INDICATE ANY FURTHER VIEW RE US REACTION WITHOUT ASKING WASHINGTON REACTION.

4. SHIH THEN ASKED MILLER TO SEEK PROBABLE WASHINGTON REACTION ASAP ON UNOFFICIAL, INFORMAL AND CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

5. COMMENT: NOT CLEAR WHETHER SHIH' S INQUIRY MADE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF PRC. WE WOULD GUESS IT WAS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS NOT UNLIKELY HE IS MAIN IMPETUS AND IS PROMOTING THE IDEA.

6. FROM VIEW POINT OF SUCCESS OF MTN, WE WOULD NOT SUGGEST ATTENDANCE PRC, ESPECIALLY SINCE INVITATION WOULD MAKE EXCLUSION USSR DIFFICULT (GATT MEMBER POLAND HAS MORE THAN ONCE SUGGESTED SOVIET PARTICIPATION) AND PARTICIPATION OF PRC AND ESPECIALLY USSR COULD BE DISRUPTIVE. (ON THE OTHER HAND, SOVIET PARTICIPATION COULD HAVE SOME ADVANTAGES IN DEALING WITH SOME COMMODITIES.) HOWEVER, WE HESITATE TO MAKE ANY OVERALL RECOMMENDATION WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT WASHINGTON THINKING ON POLITICAL AND CHINA AND SOVIET TRADE CONSIDERATIONS.
BASSIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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